



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF DENTISTRY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Infection Control

Policy No.: 3.7
Supersedes:
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POLICY:

All persons assigned to the Dental Center shall adhere to the following guidelines to assure a safe environment, reduce the potential for cross-infection, and for the protection of both patients and staff.

PROCEDURE:

1. Universal precautions will be practiced by all persons having direct contact with patients and/or instruments used in the Dental Center.
 - a. Hands will be washed before and after direct contact with any patient.
 - b. Gloves will be worn if contact with blood or body fluids from any patient is anticipated.
 - c. Gloves will be removed and hands will be washed between each patient.
 - d. Gown, mask and goggles will be worn when performing or assisting with any procedure that may result in splashing of blood or body fluids from any patient.
2. Hospital-wide infection control policies and procedures as outlined in the Infection Control Manual and Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan, located in the area, will be followed.
3. Instruments requiring steam sterilization will be prepared for sterilization as follows, but sterilized in Central Services. Sterilizers will be monitored with a commercial preparation of spores weekly (Bacillus stearothermophilus).
4. Any needle stick injury, or other blood/body fluid exposure, will be reported to the supervisor and Employee Health Services immediately (700 Building, Room125) and a PSN will be entered on the UHC system.
5. Infectious waste is disposed of in **RED**, plastic-lined waste containers and collected by Environmental Services.
6. All linen will be placed in plastic linen bag.
7. All work surfaces (counter tops, etc.) Will be cleaned with a hospital approved germicidal solution at the end of each work day or more often if soiling occurs.

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APPROVED BY: Terrie DeBord, DDS

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

8. Consultation with the Nurse Epidemiologist (x7447) and/or the Central Service Manager (x7956) will be obtained on an as needed basis.
9. Each case will be presumed to be infectious and procedures for cleaning after each patient treatment will be uniform.
10. Environment:
 - a. Carefully place all disposable needles/sharps into rigid sharps container.
 - b. Place all disposable items, contaminated with blood, into RED-lined trash containers.
 - c. Place all reusable instruments in detergent/disinfectant in dirty area.
 - d. Plastic/paper dental chair covers and plastic overhead light handle covers are changed between each patient.
 - e. Gloves will be worn when handling soiled instruments and when using disinfectants.
11. Cleaning of Instruments:
 - a. Rubber gloves will be worn while cleaning all instruments.
 - b. Instruments will then be placed on clean towel, in clean area, awaiting high-level disinfection or sterilization.
 - c. Gloves will be removed and hands will be washed before leaving dirty areas.
12. Ultrasonic Cleaning:
 - a. Pour the required amount of disinfectant solution into the tank and add water up to the fill-line indicator. Fill the beaker(s) and place in the appropriate positioning cover, using a beaker ring to adjust the beaker so that its bottom is at least one inch below the surface of the solution in the main tank but does not rest on the bottom of the tank. Place cover over tank.
 - b. To activate the unit, set timer to the desired cleaning (refer to instruction manual).
 - c. Change the solution in the beaker(s) after each use. Change the solution in the tank daily or sooner if it becomes soiled or discolored.
13. High-level disinfection is used for items which are used for clean procedures and cannot withstand heat. Items will be thoroughly cleansed and receive high-level disinfection between each patient use. Items may be stored, unwrapped, in a clean area.
 - a. A solution of two ounces of Cidex OP A to one gallon of water (820 ppm) will be used.
 - b. Exposure time will be at least 20 minutes.
 - c. A fresh solution will be mixed daily.
14. Items which are used for sterile procedures (semi-critical and critical items) will be thoroughly cleaned and sterilized after each use. Items will be wrapped, sealed and expire 12 months after processing if integrity of package remains intact.
 - a. Instruments that have been thoroughly cleansed and placed in clean area are ready for packaging.

- b. Place clean instruments in appropriately sized cassette with an internal indicator.
- c. Cassettes will be wrapped and labeled with contents and date of processing.
- d. Wrapped cassettes will be transported to Central Services for steam sterilization twice per day.
- e. Sterilized instruments will be returned to the Dental Center and appropriately stored.

15. Use and Maintenance of the Polishing Wheel:

- a. Prior to polishing the wheel, dental prostheses/appliances will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.
- b. The prosthesis/appliance will be cleaned with a soft brush under running water to remove particulate matter.
- c. Spray the prosthesis/appliance with Asepticare TB+II disinfectant, wait 10 minutes, and rinse with running water prior to polishing.
- d. Line the pan with plastic wrap or bag and use clean pumice dampened with Asepticare TB+II for each patient. Remove the plastic and pumice after polishing is complete.
- e. Rinse the prosthesis/appliance with running water after polishing.
- f. Asepticare TB+II solution must be mixed fresh weekly using the premeasured ampule and **14** ounces of water.
- g. Gloves should be worn when handling prostheses/appliances.
- h. Remove, clean and sterilize wheel daily.

16. When patients requiring isolation are referred to the Dental Department, the area staff should notify the department in advance, preferably when appointment is made. The type of isolation should be designated in the computer under clinical circumstances. (This can be determined on the dental appointment requisition).

- a. Specific guidelines for people in isolation:

People in category 1 and 2 isolation may be seen in the Dental Clinic

Category of Isolation	PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN		
	Source of Contamination	Patient	Personnel Performing Care
1	see requisition	none	Gloves if in contact with infected area.
2	see requisition	none	Gloves and gown if in direct contact with patient.

People in category 3 and 4 will be seen in the isolation rooms on the unit.

Category of Isolation	PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN		
	Source of Contamination	Patient	Personnel Performing Care

3	see requisition	none	Gown, mask and gloves prior to entering patient's room.
4	see requisition	none	Mask prior to entering patient's room. (NIOSH)

- b. Disinfect all contaminated equipment with a hospital approved phenolic disinfectant.
- c. Place all linen in plastic linen bags.
- d. Place all disposable contaminated items in RED plastic lined containers.
- e. Mobile units contaminated during use should be wiped with a phenolic disinfectant prior to return to department.
- f. If decontamination of large area required, call Environmental Services (x7577 or x7566).